Date

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DATE MAILED: November 19, 2003

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^{*} EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 603. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Unique citation designation number. See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. Inter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Place a check here if English translation is attached.

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → PTO/SB/08A (08-00) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Application Number Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO Herewith Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ISHIBASHI First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Group Art Unit Examiner Name ī 1 03482/LH Attorney Docket Number Sheet of U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Relevant Publication Date Exam. Inits* Document Number Code² Applicant Portion MIL WELLS ET AL 5,048,077 09-10-1991 WK 5,930,724 Α YANAGIDA 07-27-1999 WL 5,970,418 BUDD ET AL 10-19-1999 A FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Kind Name of Patentee or Publication Relevant Exam Inits' T6 Document Number Code³ Applicant Date MM-DD-YYYY Portion Offc) TP 05-176039 A MORITA ET AL 07-13-1993 X * W-JP 06-276265 YAMAMOTO Α 09-30-1994 X* NAKAOKA ET AL JP 09-113801 A 05-02-1997 X* J.TP 09-321848 UNO ET AL A 12-12-1997 X * JР 10-126467 SASAKI ET AL A 05-15-1998 X* IDO ET AL JP 10-340073 A 12-22-1998 X* 0 928 093 CACHARD 07-07-1999 EP A1 JΡ 2000-253113 Α SUSO ET AL 09-14-2000 X* JΡ 2000-349897 A BOKU ET AL 12-15-2000 X* 2001-036619 JP A MIYASHITA 02-09-2001 χ* *English abstract attached.

EXAMINENT INITIAL IT PETETENCE CONSIDERED WHETHER OF NOT CITATION IS IN CONFORMANCE WITH NPER SUFF. NOT COMMUNICATION to applicant.

Date

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DATE MAILED: August 13, 2003

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¹ Unique citation designation number. 'See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents.' Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 'Par Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.' Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 'Place a check here if English translation is attached.